

Message Text

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FOR EA ONLY

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TAGS: SOPN, KS, US
SUBJECT: KOREAN PRESS COMMENT ON AMBASSADOR GLEYSTEN

FOLLOWING IS TRANSLATION OF JULY 2 CHOSON ILBO ARTICLE BY
WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT (UNNAMED) ON AMBASSADOR GLEYSTEN'S
APPOINTMENT AND POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. POLICY. THIS
IS MOST EXPLICIT COMMENTARY WE HAVE SEEN ON THE APPOINTMENT,
AND MOST SPECIFIC PRESS DISCUSSION IN SOME TIME OF THE "NEW
RELATIONSHIP" QUESTION.

BEGIN TEXT:

TITLE: OPENING OF NEW KOREAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS: PART I.

THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT CHANGE OF AN AMERICAN
AMBASSADOR IN KOREA WILL BRING ANY SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN
RELATIONS BETWEEN KOREA AND THE U.S. THIS IS BECAUSE BASIC
MATTERS ARE HANDLED BY THE KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTRY AND THE
U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT ANYWAY.

HOWEVER, IN THE CASE OF NEW AMBASSADOR TO KOREA
WILL GLEYSTEN, IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY THAT HIS
APPOINTMENT COMES FROM A NORMAL DECISION CONSIDERING
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THE FACT THAT KOREAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS ARE UNDERGOING
CHANGES.

A STRAIGHTFORWARD MAN

IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR, FORMER AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO
KOREA RICHARD L. SNEIDER SAID THAT HE WAS SEEING A CLOSE

TO THE "BIG-BROTHER RELATIONSHIP" BETWEEN KOREA AND THE U.S. HE SAID THAT HE ACKNOWLEDGED THE ADVENT OF SUCH A RELATIONSHIP AND THAT THE U.S. HAD HIGH PRAISE FOR THE KOREAN PEOPLE.

IT IS HARD NOT TO SEE A RELATIONSHIP THIS CLOSE TO BIG-BROTHER RELATIONS BETWEEN KOREA AND THE U.S. AND THE CHANGE OF SNEIDER.

SUCH A POSSIBILITY SHOWS IN THE CAHRACTER AND STYLE OF THE NEW AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO KOREA. HE WAS BORN TO A MISSIONARY FAMILY IN CHINA. THIS LINKED HIM TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT AS A FAR EAST EXPERT. HE IS A SCHOLARLY DIPLOMAT.

GLEYSTEN IS A QUIET MAN AND HANDLES THINGS BASED ON REASON. HE IS ALWYAS IMPARTIAL AND OBJECTIVE IN HANDLING MATTERS. THIS IS THE CONSENSUS AMONG OFFICIALS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT CONCERNING GLEYSTEN.

KOREAN OFFICIALS AT THEIR EMBASSY IN THE U.S. THINK THAT GLEYSTEN IS A MAN WHO WILL SAY NO WHEN SOMETHING CANNOT BE DONE AND YES WHEN IT CAN BE DONE. THEY SAID THAT HE DOES NOT SAY THINGS IN A ROUND-ABOUT WAY, THAT HE SAYS THINGS FRANKLY, AND THAT HE DOES NOT DISGUISE HIS STATEMENTS.
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THE APPOINTMENT OF THIS TYPE OF MAN INDICATES THE ENTRY OF THE KOREAN-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP INTO A PERIOD OF BUSINESS-LIKE AND ORTHODOX DIPLOMACY IN DEPARTURE FROM

THE "BIG-BROTHER" RELATIONSHIP.

NEW PERIOD OF HISTORY

THE AMERICAN AMBASSADORS IN KOREA FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS, NAMELY WILLIAM PORTER, PHILIP HABIB, AND RICHARD SNEIDER, FAMILIARIZED THEMSELVES WITH KOREAN-STYLE POLITICS WHETHER THEY LIKED THEM OR NOT.

IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO DISCLOSE THEIR DIPLOMATIC SECRETS, BUT THEY WERE PEOPLE WHO KNEW HOW TO PAT THE SHOULDERS OF THE KOREANS WITH HEARTY LAUGHTER, HOW TO EXERT APPROPRIATE PRESSURES, AND HOW TO PRICK THE SORE SPOTS IN KOREA.

PEOPLE KNOW THAT THEY SOMETIMES BYPASSED NORMAL DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS AND DIRECTLY APPROACHED CH'ONG WA DAE.

PROBABLY, THE EXISTING CONDITIONS IN KOREA MADE THEM ACT
THAT WAY.

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HOWEVER, THEY ALSO HAD EMOTIONAL ATTACHEMENTS TO KOREA
AND ALSO UNDERSTANDING OF THE ORIENTAL STYLE. WHEN THERE
WAS SUCH A NEED, THEY COMPETED TO BE THE FIRST TO HELP
KOREA AND AVOIDED MAKING ANY OUT-OF-THE-WAY DEALS WHICH
MIGHT BE DETRIMENTAL TO KOREA.

IT MAY BE THAT THEY WERE FRIENDS AND YET "BIG BROTHERS"
WHO GAVE THE IMPRESSION OF DIFFICULT ACCESS BECAUSE THEY
KNEW KOREANS TOO WELL.

GLEYSTEN HAS SPENT A LONG-TIME IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND
CHINA. HOWEVER, THIS WILL BE THE FIRST TIME HE COMES INTO
ACTUAL CONTACT WITH KOREANS.

AAENG#FROM THE ASSESSMENT OF PEOPLE CLOSE TO HIM,

GLEYSTEN DOES NOT SEEM TO BE THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO
WILL GO A ROUND-ABOUT WAY DEPENDING ON THE LOOK (OF HIS
COUNTERPART) OR LAUGH (AN ISSUE) AWAY BY PATTING ONE ON
THE BACK AND JOKING. AT BEST, "FOR THOSE KOREANS WHO
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COULD FIND EASINESS IN THE HABIB AND SNEIDER STYLE, IT IS MORE LIKELY THAT THEY WILL FIND SOMEWAHT UNEASY FEELINGS FROM GLEYSTEN", AS ONE DIPLOMATIC SOURCE OBSERVED. THE SAME SOURCE ADDED, "HOWEVER, TO THOSE WHO FELT A SORT OF PRESSURE FROM THE DIPLOMATIC STYLES OF (HIS) PREDECESSORS, IT WILL BE WORTHWHILE FOR THEM TO TRY A NEW APPROACH WITH THE NEW AMBASSADOR".

IT IS NOT THAT THE DIFFERENCE OF CHARACTER IN THE NEW AMERICAN AMBASSADOR WILL MAKE ANY CHANGE IN THE EXISTING ORDER OF THINGS BETWEEN KOREA AND THE U.S. PEOPLE AROUND THE STATE DEPARTMENT REJECT THE IDEA OF FINDING ANY MEAING IN THE APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW AMBASSADOR.

HOWEVER, THE FACT THAT THE APPOINTMENT OF GLEYSTEN CAME IN THE MIDST OF CHANGES TAKING PLACE IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN KOREAN AND THE U.S. DOES NOT HAVE A SIMPLE MEANING. IN A SENSE, THIS MAY MARK THE BEGINNING OF A NEW HISTORICAL STAGE.

PRESSURE AND ARROGANCE - UNFORTUNATE PAST

KOREAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RETURN TO WHERE THEY WERE. THE END OF THE "BIG BROTHER" RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN KOREA AND THE U.S. CAME IN THE MIDST OF THE TRAUMA OF THE KOREAN LOBBYING SCANDAL AND IN THE MIDST OF ECONOMIC AFFLUENCE WITH POVERTY.

HOWEVER, THE KOREAN-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP CANNOT GO BACK TO THE PAST, WHICH WAS CHARACTERIZED BY NEGOTIATION, PRESSURE, BEGGING, ARROGANCE, AND A GOVERNOR-GENERAL-LIKE ATTITUDE OF THE AMERICAN AMBASSADORS.

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NOW WE HAVE ENTERED A PERIOD IN WHICH WE SHOULD DO THINGS IN A BUSINESS-LIKE MANNER, TRY TO UNDERSTAND THE DIFFICULT POSITION OF THE OTHER SIDE, AND FORM A WELL-MEANING FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. IN WHICH WE SHOULD GIVE THINGS WE MUST GIVE AND RECEIVE THINGS WE ARE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE.

A DIPLOMATIC SOURCE SAID THAT KOREA WAS NOW ENTERING A PERIOD OF "ORTHODOX DIPLOMACY". HE SAID THAT IF GLEYSTEN SHOULD FAIL TO UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION OF KOREA WITH RECOURSE TO REASON THERE COULD NOT BE AMORE HARMFUL THING INDEED FOR KOREA.

THIS SORT OF EVALUATION COMES NOT FROM HIS
INFERENCES FROM HIS UNDERSTANDING OF THE INFLUENCE OR
INDIVIDUAL CHARACTER OF GLEYSTEN HIMSELF BUT RATHER OF
THE ROLE OF AN AMBASSADOR IN THE CHANGES TAKING PLACE IN
RELATIONS BETWEEN KOREA AND THE U.S.

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